

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 04020 221534Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2598

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4020

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY BENSON ONLY

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, US, MO
SUBJ: FY 77 FMS CREDIT

1. YOU WILL RECALL MY UNDERTAKING NOT TO BURDEN YOU WITH PROBLEMS THAT HAVE ANY CHANCE OF BEING SORTED OUT AT A LOWER LEVEL. UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE UP AGAINST A SITUATION WITH SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR MOROCCO THAT APPEARS TO CALL FOR THE INVOLVEMENT OF SOMEONE AT THE VERY SENIOR LEVEL OF THE DEPARTMENT WITH AN APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION.

2. IN ORDER FOR MOROCCO TO BENEFIT FROM NTS FY 77 FMS CREDIT OF \$30 MILLION, A PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER IS REQUIRED OF THE OVERALL AFRICA CEILING OF \$40 MILLION. ALAS, IN THE ABSENCE TO DATE OF SUCH A DETERMINATION THE ROYAL MOROCCAN AIR FORCE HAS BEEN PREVENTED FROM OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF THE REMAINING FOUR C-130 AIRCRAFT WHICH ARE READY TO BE DELIVERED UNDER A GOM COMMERICAL PURCHASE FROM LOCKHEED. AS THE LATEST OF A SERIES OF INCREASINGLY ANGUISHED APPEALS BY THE GOM, I HAVE NOW BEEN APPROACHED BY COLONEL TERHZAZ, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE RMAF, WHOM I KNOW YOU WILL REMEMBER FROM YOUR VISIT.

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3. THE GOM HAS RETIRED ITS FLEET OF C-119G AND C-47 AIRCRAFT, LEAVING THE FULL BURDEN OF AIRLIFT TO THE CURRENT C-130 FLEET OF SEVEN AIRCRAFT. AVAILABILITY OF THESE AIRCRAFT HAS RECENTLY BEEN REDUCED BY SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE RESULTING FROM THE HIGH LEVEL OF FLYING TIME ALREADY ACCRUED ON THE AIRFRAMES (A COMMERICAL CONTRACT FOR THIS

SUPPORT WAS RECENTLY SIGNED WITH LOCKHEED). ACCORDING TO COLONEL TERHZAZ ONLY THREE OF THE SEVEN ARE OPERATIONALLY READY.

4. YOU CAN THEREFORE IMAGINE MY CONSTERNATION AT LEARNING INFORMALLY THAT THE AFRICA WAIVER HAS NOT EVEN REACHED THE NSC, HAVING REPORTEDLY BEEN HUNG UP IN OMB. MAY I COUNT ON YOUR EFFORTS TO UNSNARL THIS ONE AND LET ME HAVE ANY WORD I CAN PASS ON TO THE GOM AT THIS TIME?

5. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR MOST HELPFUL VISIT. IT WAS SO VERY VALUABLE FOR US AND, I HOPE, INFORMATIVE FOR YOU. ANDERSON

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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